



MI-CW3709

# Michigan Crop Weather

September 14, 2009

## Warm and Dry

Seven days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending September 13, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from zero precipitation in the eastern and western Upper Peninsula, northeast, northwest, west central, central, and east central Lower Peninsula to 0.73 in the southeast Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 2 degrees above normal in the east central, southwest, south central and southeast Lower Peninsula to 8 degrees above normal in the eastern Upper Peninsula. A good week of warm temperatures was a welcome change from the cooler than normal temperatures that predominated this growing season. Although crop development remained behind normal, the above normal temperatures proved beneficial to the advancement of crops. A grower in the south central noted, “Unseasonably warm weather has helped the soybean and corn crop to progress.”

## Field Crops

Continued mild, pleasant conditions, combined with very minimal precipitation have significantly advanced the development of crops in all areas of the State. **Wheat**, for the 2010 crop year, was planted in some fields. **Oats** and **rye** were combined in the northeast. **Corn** advancement continued. In the northwest, corn leaves were curling due to a lack of moisture. Some farmers were harvesting corn for silage. **Soybeans** increased in size, were turning color, and filling pods as a result of warmer temperatures. In the Thumb, some fields were showing white mold damage. Warmer temperatures last week resulted in gains for both corn and soybeans. Concern for corn and soybean development, prior to the frost remained. **Alfalfa** harvest continued, with some farmers receiving a fourth cutting. Some alfalfa was planted in wheat fields. **Sugarbeet** harvest will begin this week. However, due to the volatility of the commodity and warmer temperatures, harvest will be limited. Slicing of the beets is expected to begin on Wednesday. **Dry bean** advancement continued.

Soil moisture for week ending 09/13/09

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	10	34	55	1
Subsoil	6	32	61	1

Crop condition for week ending 09/13/09

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	2	8	27	50	13
Corn	5	11	28	44	12
Dry beans	6	18	39	31	6
Pasture	2	10	40	38	10
Soybeans	4	12	30	42	12

## Fruit

**Apple** harvest continued. In the southeast, growers harvested early maturing strains of McIntosh apples. Black rot symptoms were found on maturing fruit. **Blueberry** harvest was completed. **Peach** harvest continued to progress. In the southeast, peach harvest was winding down; and bacterial spot was prevalent. Harvest of Stanley and Bartlett **pears** continued. **Plum** harvest continued. Harvest continued for fall **raspberries**; fruit has been slow to ripen at many farms. Cane removal in summer red, purple and black raspberries was completed. Leaf curling in newly planted **strawberries** occurred in the southeast; symptoms of powdery mildew were found. In the northwest, **grapes** continued to mature as many varieties were changing colors. Harvest of table grapes continued in the southwest.

## Vegetables

**Sweet corn** harvest continued across the State with most farms reporting good yields. Growers in the southeast expected later plantings to be ready to harvest in the next one to two weeks. **Tomato** harvest continued as late planted fields have come into production. Septorial leaf spot, early blight, and late blight have caused some problems for tomato growers, but the fungicide program recommended for commercial production should keep most diseases in check. **Pepper** and **eggplant** harvest continued; aphids and virus symptoms were found in some pepper plantings in the southwest. **Summer squash** harvest was winding down with mostly positive reports, while **winter squash** harvest began and looked favorable so far. **Watermelons** were also being harvested in a number of locations, while **pumpkins** were developing at a good rate this week; foliar diseases and fruit rots have challenged some watermelon and pumpkin producers. Yields from cole crops such as **cabbage**, **broccoli**, and **cauliflower** were reported as good to excellent. Downy mildew has caused stand reductions and poor yields for some **onion** growers; however, onion yields were good where stands are in good condition and mildew has been kept in check. In the Grand Rapids area, **celery** growers reported good production and quality; however in some fields, crop yields were reduced where rainfall was excessive earlier this season. Also in the Grand Rapids area, harvest and new plantings of **radishes** continued.

Crop progress for week ending 09/13/09

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	91	90	100	100
All hay, third cutting	63	54	72	76
All hay, fourth cutting	17	10	18	18
Apples, harvested	18	11	18	18
Corn, dough	81	75	93	94
Corn, dent	41	21	77	75
Corn silage, harvested	5	2	38	43
Dry beans, turning leaves	68	45	79	92
Dry beans, dropping leaves	37	18	47	65
Oats, harvested	95	91	100	99
Peaches, harvested	82	65	75	87
Potatoes, harvested	32	26	33	31
Soybeans, turning leaves	27	6	66	60
Soybeans, dropping leaves	4	0	26	25
Winter wheat, planted	3	0	2	3

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 09/13/09 <sup>1</sup>

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days <sup>2</sup>			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2009	2008	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	79	46		1,653	1,715		0.00	0.00	2.58	11.01		
Marquette	81	50		1,537	1,635		0.00	0.00	2.58	12.06		
Stephenson	86	46		1,880	2,022		0.00	0.00	1.91	13.16		
Western UP	86	41	7	1,642	1,709	1,793	0.00	0.01	2.49	12.60	18.03	3.58
Cornell	80	51		1,743	1,927		0.00	0.02	1.83	12.52		
Sault St Marie	79	53		1,560	1,681		0.00	0.06	2.50	13.21		
Eastern UP	83	47	8	1,545	1,680	1,582	0.00	0.02	2.23	14.27	16.83	3.55
Beulah	83	49		1,929	2,197		0.00	0.00	2.71	17.87		
Lake City	82	40		1,844	2,070		0.00	0.00	2.60	17.69		
Old Mission	83	46		1,828	2,098		0.00	0.00	2.29	12.34		
Pellston	81	39		1,722	1,968		0.00	0.00	2.17	12.39		
Northwest	83	39	5	1,785	2,026	2,033	0.00	0.03	2.10	13.19	15.81	3.66
Alpena	78	43		1,829	2,051		0.00	0.00	3.28	19.02		
Houghton Lake	81	35		1,857	2,113		0.00	0.00	1.27	16.27		
Rogers City	77	45		1,784	2,038		0.00	0.00	2.42	20.75		
Northeast	81	35	3	1,818	2,055	1,969	0.00	0.00	2.41	17.55	15.82	3.47
Fremont	83	47		2,096	2,290		0.00	0.00	1.46	14.94		
Hart	82	47		1,985	2,181		0.00	0.00	1.99	16.82		
Muskegon	83	48		2,283	2,315		0.00	0.00	1.95	14.58		
West Central	85	43	5	2,084	2,228	2,217	0.00	0.00	1.79	16.19	16.13	3.19
Alma	83	48		2,139	2,399		0.00	0.00	1.09	19.08		
Big Rapids	81	46		1,985	2,272		0.00	0.00	1.87	21.49		
Central	83	46	3	2,066	2,321	2,289	0.00	0.00	1.41	18.26	16.98	3.09
Bad Axe	82	46		2,009	2,315		0.00	0.00	0.58	16.38		
Pigeon	81	42		1,974	2,225		0.00	0.00	0.87	16.65		
Saginaw	84	47		2,207	2,458		0.01	0.01	0.51	15.92		
Standish	82	43		1,963	2,176		0.00	0.00	1.21	15.23		
East Central	84	42	2	1,999	2,316	2,290	0.00	0.00	0.80	16.83	15.07	2.70
Fennville	82	46		2,179	2,329		0.00	0.00	2.93	18.92		
Grand Rapids	81	50		2,415	2,652		0.04	0.04	2.12	21.31		
Holland	82	49		2,517	2,681		0.26	0.26	3.85	30.52		
South Bend, IN	80	47		2,552	2,733		0.07	0.07	6.58	21.73		
Watervliet	81	47		2,354	2,505		0.07	0.07	3.56	18.00		
Southwest	84	45	2	2,371	2,529	2,490	0.05	0.05	3.46	19.46	17.41	3.26
Belding	81	46		2,111	2,353		0.00	0.00	1.33	18.44		
Coldwater	83	44		2,422	2,503		0.14	0.14	3.53	17.80		
Lansing	79	49		2,282	2,564		0.00	0.00	2.27	24.28		
South Central	83	44	2	2,232	2,481	2,448	0.15	0.16	2.26	20.01	17.25	2.79
Detroit	82	53		2,599	2,835		0.55	0.55	1.94	19.05		
Flint	80	46		2,234	2,602		0.00	0.00	0.86	22.14		
Romeo	81	50		2,244	2,467		1.04	1.07	2.37	18.03		
Tipton	80	59		2,311	2,547		0.97	1.00	3.78	18.11		
Toledo, OH	82	50		2,599	2,804		1.66	1.95	3.82	18.43		
Southeast	99	2	2	2,340	2,616	2,445	0.73	0.75	2.68	17.76	16.54	2.43

<sup>1</sup> Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

<sup>2</sup> Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.